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CHARLES ELMORE CROP
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Supreme Court of the United States.

OCTOBER TERM, 1949.

No. 248.

JOHN HOWARD LAWSON,
Petitioner,

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Respondent.

BRIEF OF THE SAMUEL ADAMS SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL STUDIES AS AMICUS CURIAE IN SUPPORT OF PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

The Samuel Adams School for Social Studies was formally organized in August, 1944, following some exploratory effort during the preceding year which demonstrated the need for an interest in courses designed primarily for adult employed persons. A Board of Trustees, numbering among its sixteen members educators, publishers, ordained ministers, professors and labor leaders, all local residents and active in civic affairs, and of diverse social, political and religious views, continued with only a few resignations, due to change of residence or pressure of other obligations, to direct the affairs of the school throughout the

period of its existence. Established teachers from local institutions, including Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Tufts College, Boston University, Wellesley College, Simmons College and schools of art or music, spontaneously volunteered to conduct courses because of their personal interest in the purposes and objectives of the school. In many instances they did this without compensation.

The purpose of the school was twofold: to offer to adults courses dealing with the areas of conflict and misunderstanding in international relations and with tensions on the domestic scene based on economic, religious, racial or cultural differences; and secondly, to offer courses of personal advantage in understanding oneself and others, rearing children, maintaining wholesome family and community relationships, and in the enrichment of life through the cultivation of taste in art, music and literature. Appropriate courses in crafts, music, dramatization and art were also offered for workers' children on Saturday mornings. Of the 375 courses offered during the existence of the school, 53% dealt with the world today, history, economics, labor and trade union problems; 36% with psychology, philosophy, science, literature and the arts; and 11% were devoted to the needs of growing children. The school reached 4388 registrants in its various courses.

The school also provided a forum for the open discussion and consideration of current issues and problems by distinguished visiting authorities, authors, creative artists and social scientists and also provided a wholesome atmosphere and setting for the recreational needs of the younger group through informal gatherings, dances, teas, and dramatics or musical programs.

Courses were announced by successive issues of a catalogue which described the course, named the instructor and made public every pertinent fact regarding the school.

The school was open to visitors, and all functions came readily under public scrutiny. No charge of impropriety was ever lodged. In fact, expressions of commendation, approval and praise gave continuous encouragement to the Board of Trustees.

By means of and for reasons of which the Board was never apprised, the school was included in the list of "subversive" institutions and organizations issued by the Attorney General of the United States. Shortly after the publication of this list, the school was advised by the Treasury Department of the United States of the revocation of the school's tax-exemption status, which made our financial position unmanageable, for approximately three-fifths of the financial support of the school came from voluntary contributions of individuals who wished to list the donation on their income-tax reports.

The damage done to the school by the Attorney General's list compelled the Board of Trustees to discontinue its educational program with the termination of the Winter Term course in March, 1948, and the school has been closed ever since.

We are vitally concerned and alarmed by the hysteria and atmosphere of fear that has pervaded this country in recent years. Manifestly, the activity of the House Committee on Un-American Activities has been a potent contributor to this hysteria and fear as has President Truman's executive order creating a Loyalty program for Government employees with its designation of so-called subversive groups and organizations by the Attorney General. We have followed carefully the prosecution of John Howard Lawson by our Government and we are convinced that he has been a victim of the same hysteria and fear as has our school. The Constitution of the United States has been recklessly ignored or violated by the aforesaid House Committee. We respectfully urge this Court to grant the

petition for certiorari presented by the said Lawson. This Court has an opportunity in this momentous case to debar the aforesaid House Committee from doing violence to the Constitution by seeking a disclosure of personal political opinion. Such a decision would be a great step forward in halting the hysteria and fear that have been inflicted on the people of our Country.

Respectfully submitted,

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SAMUEL ADAMS SCHOOL FOR
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